

SOLANUS

Bulletin of the Slavonic and East European Group of SCONUL

(Standing Conference of National and University Libraries)





S O L A N U S

Bulletin of the Slavonic and East European Group of S C O N U L

(Standing Conference of National and University Libraries)

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Solanus is distributed without charge to members of the British Universities' Association of Slavists and of the National Association for Soviet and East European Studies. Members not receiving their copies are asked to inform the Hon. Secretary of the SCONUL Slavonic and East European Group, whose address appears on the previous page.

THE SCONUL SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN GROUP

AT the Annual Conference on 21st April, 1971, the delegates adopted the new constitution of the Group, the main aim of which is to involve a wider active membership.

It was decided that full membership should be open to institutions in the United Kingdom actively concerned with Slavonic and East European library materials (not restricted to members of SCONUL). Membership entitles institutions to send delegates to the annual general meeting of the Group, not more than two delegates from each institution having voting powers.

Associate membership is open to other bodies interested in the aims of the Group. Each associate member may send delegates to the annual general meeting, one of whom shall have voting powers. Associate membership is also open to individuals, who may attend the annual conference without voting rights.

The aims of the Group were stated as being:

- (i) to encourage co-operation in the acquisitions, dissemination and preservation of library materials needed for Slavonic and East European studies,
- (ii) to assist in and advise on the provision, recording and use of such materials in national, university, special and public libraries,
- (iii) to provide a forum for discussion among librarians concerned with the subject and between librarians and scholars and research works in the field,
- (iv) to promote the dissemination of information on these topics through publication and by other means.

It was hoped that, with a wider membership, more frequent meetings would be useful and feasible. But no suggestions for themes of future meetings were made at the Conference. If any members now have suggestions to make on this or any other aspect of the Group's activities they should contact Miss A.F. Sweetman, National Central Library, Store Street, London, WC1E 7DG.

At the Annual Conference, 21st April, 1971, the following officers and committee members were elected to serve during 1971/72:

Chairman

Mr R.J. Fulford (British Museum)

Hon. Secretary

Miss A.F. Sweetman (National Central Library, Store Street,
London, WC1E 7DG.)

Committee

Mr T.H. Bowyer (Queen Mary College, University of London)

Mrs M.L. Danilewicz (Polish Library)

Mr B. Hunter (British Library of Political & Economic Science)

Mr E.P. Tyrrell (University of Cambridge)

Mr P. Valois (School of Slavonic & East European Studies)

Mr G.P.M. Walker (Bodleian Library)

Editor of Solanus, ex-officio:

Mr A.P. Fletcher (Institute of Soviet & East European
Studies, University of Glasgow)

Production manager of Solanus, ex-officio:

Mr P. Burnett (University of Lancaster)

There are three further members of the Committee nominated respectively by the British Universities Association of Slavists, the National Association for Soviet and East European Studies and the SCONUL/Orientalist Group.

INTER-LIBRARY LENDING OF SLAVONICA

A paper read at the Annual Conference of the SCONUL
Slavonic & East European Group, 21 April 1971

B.R. Hunter

British Library of Political and Economic Science

IN order to establish how typical the British Library of Political and Economic Science is as an inter-lending library I should perhaps start with a brief outline of its relevant functions.

The British Library of Political and Economic Science is informally known, of course, as the London School of Economics Library. This duality of name reflects very exactly a duality of function. LSE's Library is not just the library of LSE. It was founded to provide a national collection of materials (especially documents) for research in the social sciences, which would also serve the ready-founded LSE. This side of the Library's activities has come to be expressed as its 'quasi-public' status. Our acceptance of extra-mural responsibilities makes us willing lenders, of course. Our collections are large and demand is heavy, requests actually met running at over 5,000 loans or photocopies a year. We lend 4½ times as many items as we borrow.

But being a research centre also restricts our ability to lend. There are works which must always be available to on-the-spot readers. The tug-of-war which all libraries feel between home and away readers is triangular in our case, and priority is naturally always given to staff and students of LSE.

In the specifically Slavonic field, this conflict is not particularly grave, though it means that we would not lend, for example, current national statistical year books. There are about a dozen staff and two dozen students working with Slavonic languages, in addition to visiting scholars, and these use much more material than is lent outside. Of all Slavonic material in use, a fairly constant 15% only, which represents less than 1% of our total Slavonic

holdings, is away on inter-loan. Here again, as generally, we lend more than we borrow: 4 times more, in fact, a disproportion slightly less than the overall figure. We accept this as inevitable with collections the size of ours, and, as I have said, a service consonant with our stated purposes. The proximity of other large Slavonic collections in London must be a factor in reducing the demand on us to borrow. We borrow only for our staff and students: visiting readers are expected to apply to their home libraries.

We ourselves also derive considerable benefit from participation, of course. Even though our ultimate acquisitions policy is to be comprehensive for our core subjects and representative for our fringe subjects, there must always be items which we can not obtain; and of course no one can predict what will be grist to the social scientist's mill: there is a sociology of everything now, even of sociology. More than 90% of our Slavonic borrowings are for items outside our field. Readers' requests for items in our field are a valuable check on shortcomings in acquisitions, and purchases are often initiated by the receipt of a loan request.

The satisfaction of our readers' Slavonic requests is of a very high order. Disregarding items pending, 23 out of 24 requests were met in the last academic year, which was admittedly better than average. We seem almost to be able to offer 'to every reader his book', but an unsatisfactory aspect of the service we offer is the often long delay in receiving our requests. We find the quickest delivery time is 4 to 6 weeks; for one item we waited 2 years! Delays of this duration, of course, are usually tantamount to non-fulfilment.

In general delays can be reduced by direct inter-library requests, and half the general requests we make (and receive) are made in this way. Very little Slavonic material is requested in this way, however: most of our requests are placed with the National Central Library because of their union catalogue, and because half the items are going to come from abroad. The use of the telephone in making requests is largely ruled out by the language barrier.

As to the economics of our participation, because of the NCL's intermediacy, and the SCONUL and NLL schemes, the direct operating costs are not large, though we have to keep an eye on them of course. Because of shortage of machine time on our Flexowriters, we are no longer reporting to the NCL's Slavonic Union Catalogue by sending a spare catalogue card, as we did when we ran off the cards on a duplicator. We are still reporting, of course; now by sending a marked-up copy of our Monthly list of additions. We also contribute to all the other reporting services we have heard of. All of this involves us in a lot of work, and I should say that we like to feel it is to some purpose: it can be less laborious to frame a questionnaire than answer it. We publish our acquisitions in our subject catalogue too, of course, the London Bibliography of the Social Sciences, but this has a far wider purpose than to be a guide of inter-lending services and cannot be considered a charge upon those. The Slavonic field is a difficult one for lending, and it may engage the sympathies of some of the speakers who follow me if I outline our Slavonic lending in terms of the problems encountered.

In general the Library is able to meet over half of the requests made on it, but in the Slavonic field this proportion falls to 1/3. Analysis of NCL's requests (the only ones for which details of failed requests are recorded) for the last academic year shows that 169 out of 233 were not met. The satisfaction rate is twice as high for direct requests, in which the requesting library can often quote our shelf mark to us, or is requesting something it has borrowed before. One of the 169 items we had lost. Nine were outrageously out of our field, a small percentage attributable to error. We do not have any feeling that unsorted items are being passed to us.

Eight we refused to lend. A sensitive category this, arising on three grounds: the book may be wanted by a member of LSE; it may be rare or valuable; it may - and this is common in this field - be too fragile to travel or even photocopy. I do not think we are obstructionist about this: books which are not automatically eligible for lending are usually lent after due consideration, and we go to some pains on occasion to arrange the loan of material which has to be supervised and insured at every step.

A larger category, of 12 requests, we could not identify. Less than 1% of our interlending is Slavonic, so of course none of the interlending staff know, or could be economically employed to know, the languages. The most impeccable Slavonic references present to them a somewhat daunting prospect; and not many references, unfortunately, are impeccable. The interlending staff can call upon Slavonic specialists in the Library, and always do ask for such a second opinion if they do not find an item in the catalogue. These 12 requests remained garbled beyond recognition; many other garbled items had yielded their secrets to detective work. Reading a form like 'cliononuli' as 'ekonomika' is more or less routine. Corrupt references make serious inroads into the time and goodwill of staff, who may reasonably feel, I think, that special care is due from requesters and agencies in this field.

We attempt to profit from our experience at this end of the process by vetting our readers' requests carefully, gathering all the information we can get out of them, and toning up their citations with our own bibliographies. This is often not required, however, since we do find Slavonic requesters a rather good class of reader, informative and appreciative.

I should offer the reassurance at this point that it is not likely that a request will fail simply because it is presented in a style different from our cataloguing. If it were possible to couch all requests in a standard style, we would obviously find this very desirable. But meanwhile our rules provide for a title entry or added entry whenever there is no personal author. It is true, however, that books catalogued before the introduction of these rules in the mid-50's may be missed because they are entered, to take a common instance, solely under an editor who is not quoted by the requester. Another area where care must be taken is in the pre-1950 volumes of the London Bibliography, where Russian works are entered in English. These are no longer amenable to alteration, although the main entry in our card catalogue has usually been converted to Russian.

New methods of producing catalogue cards have forced us to transliterate the entire entry, and one virtue of this ugly necessity

has been the easier recognition of items by interlending staff.

The largest category of our failures to provide were 139 items which we simply did not possess. Requests made of us are spread right across our spectrum of interests in much the same proportions as we ourselves collect in them: just over a quarter politics, just under a quarter, economics, and so on. Requests come mainly from universities. Last year there were 7 Slavonic requests from public libraries. There is some demand from government departments, journalists, lawyers and firms, though these often prefer to visit.

Demand is thus suited to our holdings. The failure rate must be attributed to the fact that we are not running a general Slavonic service, with Lenin and Nemchinov coming and going all the time. We are attempting as it were to defend a very long front against occasional concentrated attacks in depth at unpredictable points. One quantifiable factor, however, is the age of the material. We began the systematic collection of Slavonic material only after the second world war. Although we have plenty of valuable material before that date, requests for early material are more likely to fail. In the last academic year NCL asked us for 9 tsarist items, and we had none of them; 41 items from the period 1917-1930, and we had 6; 24 from 1930 to the war, and we had 3. The period of Stalin's post-war hegemony is a period of low demand. 40% of Russian requests are post-Stalin, and we are able to satisfy half of this. Practically all the demand for East European and periodical material is post-Stalin, and we can supply about a third in both cases.

On the farther reaches of interlending we make a contribution of making our holdings available to reprint firms, and we occasionally make copies of borrowed items for ourselves. We also donate material to the NCL's own library.

It may be that historians in the future will dub our age the pre-historic period of planned cooperation. The British Library of Political and Economic Science is responsive to such initiatives, though its basic policy for the foreseeable future is likely to remain that of building strong collections at home as widely as possible, and

turning to inter-library lending to bridge a gap which, however much it narrows, will never disappear.

NOTE ON THE SLAVONIC COLLECTIONS IN ST ANDREWS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Robin Lucas

University of East Anglia Library
(formerly St Andrews University Library)

THERE has been, at St Andrews, intermittent and unorganized collection in the field of Slavonic and East European studies from the date of the foundation of the University Library in 1611. Before and after that time books were collected in the University colleges, those of Saint Salvator (founded 1450), Saint Leonard (1512) and Saint Mary (1537), some of which have found their way into the collections of the University Library. A large part of the holdings (about 400 titles) acquired before the twentieth century consist either of histories, travel memoirs and geographical descriptions published in western Europe; or treatises in theology, mathematics, astronomy and the natural sciences that were published in Latin or western European languages within the countries of eastern Europe. A systematic policy of collection dates from 1963, in which year the Department of Russian was established in the Faculty of Arts. Subject coverage was considerably extended in 1966 with the inauguration of the undergraduate course in Modern Russian Studies.

With the very obvious exception of the Ostrog Bible (1581) and the Psaltir s vossledovaniem (Moskva, 1627), concerning which a descriptive article by R.F. Christian, J. Sullivan and J.S.G. Simmons appeared in The Bibliothek (vol. 5, Nos. 7-8, 1970), there are no outstanding treasures amongst the Slavonic and East European holdings of the Library. There are, however, several rarities of note, amongst which could be listed four editions of works by Komensky published within his lifetime. The earliest located item of Slavica is what purports to be a sermon of Jan Hus, that was edited by Johann Dobneck and issued from the press of Niklaus Wolrab at Leipzig in 1538. The pursuit of divinity and biblical studies in the University, which were concentrated in Saint Mary's College from the 'new foundation' in 1579, was the probable factor responsible for the largest part of the Library's very first collection in this field. The University Library has what appears to be a complete set, and two incomplete sets, of the Bibliotheca Fratrum Polonorum (Amsterdam, 1656), a collection in ten

volumes of Unitarian texts and propositions from four authors. The early existence in the University of chairs in Mathematics (1739) and Natural and Experimental Philosophy (1747) and the gift (1929) - by his son - of the library of James David Forbes, one-time Professor of Natural Philosophy at Edinburgh and subsequently Principal (1859-68) of the United College of Saint Salvator and Saint Leonard at St Andrews, is the explanation for the Library's somewhat unusually rich coverage of works in the exact sciences published in Saint-Petersburg in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Here could be mentioned nine works, five of them in two copies, of the authorship of Leonhard Euler, issued from the press of the Imperial Academy of Sciences between 1736 and 1794. More general holdings in this area, as well as in other organized academic disciplines, are the Commentarii (and its continuations under various subsequent titles) of the Saint-Petersburg Academy of Sciences (1726-1912), of which the Library has a set near to complete; and the Bulletins of the same institution, of which the Library has an unbroken run from 1836 until 1913. Because between 1710 and 1836 St Andrews University Library enjoyed the privilege of copyright deposit on request of works published within the United Kingdom - although the exploitation of this means of acquisition was not systematically pursued - a number of histories and topographies of eastern European countries have found their way into the collections. This must be the reason for the Library's possession of Edward Daniel Clarke's Travels: Russia, Tartary, and Turkey in three separate editions (1810, 1813 and 1816).

With regard to the current collecting activity of the University Library, detailed statistics have not been kept of the Library's overall intake of works in the field of Slavonic and East European studies. The financial figures which might otherwise provide a fair indication as to the value and volume of recent accessions are, unfortunately, incomplete, both for the field as a whole and for Russian literature, in particular, on which expenditure has been concentrated. It is for ad hoc expenditure that figures are most wanting. It can be said, however, that during the three academic years 1965/6-1967/8 the Library spent a capital sum of nearly £3,500 on the acquisition of works in the field, of which £2,000 was made available by the U G C as a Hayter Award for the purpose of developing Russian studies in the University of St Andrews, the remainder of the sum

coming from the 1966/7 arrears grant. Arrears grant expenditure on Slavonic studies in other years has not been recorded. With regard to continuing expenditure on the field from the general fund, figures are more comprehensive, but aim to be inclusive only of Russian literature and linguistics and do not generally include other works acquired in the field, such as those in history, politics, economics, geography and bibliography, the figures for which cannot be isolated from the totals, both of cost and number, of all works acquired in these subjects. In the eight years from the establishment of the Department of Russian expenditure from the general fund on Russian literature and linguistics has amounted to £9,371: annual expenditure for this purpose has risen more or less consistently, from £159 in 1963/4 to £2,210 in 1970/71. Taking ad hoc and ordinary expenditure together, it is possible to state that a minimum of £13,000 has been spent on the acquisition of works within the field of Slavonic and East European studies since 1963/4. These figures do not cover binding costs. It is expected that the near eight-percent increase for the session 1971/2 in the overall library grant for books, binding and administration will produce extra funds for the purchase of works in Russian studies. The total number of titles in Russian (humanities and social sciences) received and catalogued in 1970/71 was approaching 500.

The emphasis in the current selection and acquisition of books is on nineteenth- and twentieth-century Russian literature, although a not insignificant research collection has been established in the field of comparative Slavonic philology from the earliest historical periods. Modern - principally twentieth-century - Russian and Soviet politics, history, economics and geography are increasingly covered, but the current intake of monographs in these fields is not formidable. The University Library does, however, subscribe to a comprehensive range of periodicals in the field, having standing orders for about 150 periodicals and serials from suppliers in the United Kingdom and the Federal German Republic. This figure for periodicals does not include materials acquired in the exact and physical sciences or published in the German Democratic Republic. £155 was allocated from the Russian grant for the acquisition of periodicals in 1970/71.

The financial and related figures cited above were kindly provided by Mr D. MacArthur, the Librarian.

THE SLAVONIC COLLECTIONS OF LEEDS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

C. McCarthy

The Brotherton Library
University of Leeds

RUSSIAN was first taught in the University of Leeds during the First World War, and the Department of Russian Studies, now one of the largest of the University's language departments, is notable in that it is responsible for the teaching of Russian history throughout the University and also offers tuition in Czech and Bulgarian. The library has been accessioning Slavonic material for many years but it only started large-scale purchasing in the early sixties; a member of staff is designated Slavonic Subject Specialist. It would be reasonable to estimate, including all books and periodicals, and allowing for pamphlets and microfilms, that Leeds University libraries as a whole contain about 20,000 items of interest to Slavonic scholars. In the session 1969-70 the library added 390 new titles in each of the major relevant subject areas, Russian History and Slavonic language and literature; of this total of 780 titles 560 were written in Russian and 360 of the latter were Soviet publications issued in the three previous years. Between fifty and a hundred books in Russian were added to the library in other subject areas, such as politics and bibliography. In the same session 130 books were added to the Russian Departmental Library; most of these were written in English.

The Russian literature collection consists of about 4,000 volumes, excluding periodicals, dictionaries and works on grammar and linguistics. Just over half deal with the post-1917 period and most of the expansion is into this half. It is a good, rather heavy general collection which is strong on the "classics" - Tolstoy, Dostoevsky and Gorky - and multi-volume sets. In fact there are almost 150 sets of collected works in 3 or more volumes; these of course include all the standard and many of the minor authors; of great interest are the following collected works by authors who are not reprinted at this length by Soviet publishing houses: Boborykin (12 vols. in 6, 1897), Grigorovich (12 vols., 1896), Lazhechnikov (8 vols., 1858), Leontev

(9 vols., 1912-14, xerox), Maikov (4 vols., 1901), Markevich (11 vols. in 5, 1885), Mei (5 vols., 1887), Merezhkovskii (24 vols. in 8, 1914), Ovsyaniko-Kulikovskii (9 vols. in 5, 1912-14), Polonskii (3 vols., 1869-70), Sheller-Mikhailov (16 vols., 1904-5) and Solovev (12 vols. in 6, 1911-14, reprint).

The major periodical items are an almost complete run of Novyi mir, of which 1925-44 are in reprint, and a reprint of Izvestiya otdeleniya russkogo yazyka, 1896-1927. There are complete sets of Literaturnaya gazeta (of which 1929-60 is on microfilm), Literaturnoe nasledstvo (early issues mostly on microfiche), Revue des études slaves, Slavic review and Zeitschrift für slavische Philologie. The set of Grani is almost complete and that of Soviet literature is complete from 1948. Kolokol and Polyarnaya zvezda are available in Soviet reprint editions and there is an East German reprint of Sovremennik for 1836-46. There are of course numerous part sets and minor titles, while the major current accessions not already mentioned are: Literaturnaya Rossiya, Molodaya gvardiya, Moskva, Oktyabr, Neva, Roman-gazeta, Teatr, Voprosy yazykoznaniiya, Znamya and Zvezda. In most cases these are complete from at least the early sixties.

There is an extensive collection of books on Russian linguistics and grammar on all levels and a good selection of dictionaries, including a 1903-9 edition of Dal' and the 17-volume "Academy" dictionary, 1950-65. In fact the oldest Russian book in the library is a dictionary: Prokhor Zhdanov's "Novoi slovar angliskoi i rossiiskoi", Spb., 1784.

The Russian history collection is compact, just over 2,000 volumes, but most of the accessions were made in the last decade and the standard is high. The general works include the "Sovetskaya istoricheskaya entsiklopediya" (in progress), histories of Russia by Klyuchevskii (8 vols., 1956-9), Tatishchev (7 vols., 1962-8), Solovev (24 vols., 1866-74) and the works of Tarle in 12 vols., 1957-62. There is relatively little material on medieval history; only a dozen volumes of "Polnoe sobranie russkikh letopisei" in

Soviet reprint are worthy of mention. The collection picks up rapidly in the nineteenth century with the "Istoriya Rossii v XIX veke" (9 vols., 1907-11, xerox) and the selected works of Lavrov (4 vols., 1934-5, xerox) and Tkachev (6 vols., 1932-7, xerox). Shilder's biographies of Paul I (1901), Nicholas I (2 vols., 1903, xerox) and Alexander I (4 vols., 1897-8, xerox) are available, as is Schieman's "Geschichte Russlands unter Kaiser Nikolaus I" (4 vols., 1904-19). We have a special interest in the Emancipation and can offer Skrebitskii's "Krestyanskoe delo" (4 vols. in 5, 1862-8), "Velikaya reforma" (6 vols., 1911, xerox) and Dzhanshiev's "Epokha velikikh reform" (2 vols., 1907, xerox), backed by Veselovskii's "Istoriya zemstva" (2 vols., 1909, xerox). Soviet multi-volume works include slightly incomplete sets of "Krestyanskoe dvizhenie" (9 vols. available) and "Revolyutsiya 1905-1907 v Rossii" (15 vols. available). The Stenograficheskie otchety of the State Dumas, with indexes (36 vols., 1906-17) are available in microform, as is Martov's "Obshchestvennoe dvizhenie v Rossii v nachale XX veka" (4 vols., 1904-11). Periodicals of the pre-revolutionary period include Iskra (1900-1905), Nabat (1878-81), Sotsial-demokrat (1904-17) and Russkie vedomosti (1890-1904); all these are microfilms made from incomplete sets.

About a quarter of the history collection deals with the 1917 revolution; much of this is modern Soviet material but there are notable exceptions. The library has microfilms of the surviving 1917 issues of six Petrograd newspapers: Izvestiya, Pravda, Rabochaya gazeta, Rech, Delo naroda and Sotsial-demokrat. The proceedings of the Cherezvychainaya sledstvennaya kommissiya: "Padenie tsarskogo rezhima" (7 vols., 1924-7) are available on microcard. Reminiscences include microfilms of Sukhanov/Himmer's "Zapiski" (7 vols., 1922-3) and of Shlyapnikov's works on 1917 (5 vols., 1923-7). The library has recently started to collect works on the revolution in the provinces: "Oktyabr v Ekaterinoslave" (1957) is a typical example.

There are numerous Congress, Plenu, Supreme Soviet and similar records to which microcard editions of the complete stenographic

records of Party Congresses VI to XVIII and Supreme Soviet Sozyvy I - VI from a solid backbone. The library has succeeded in filling six shelves with various editions of the works of Lenin and Stalin. The provision of early soviet historical works in microform is particularly good; there is Arkhivnoe delo (1923-41), Borba klassov/Istoricheskii zhurnal (1931-45), Istoriik-marksist (1926-41), Krasnaya letopis (1922-36), Krasnyi arkhiv (1922-41) and Proletarskaya revolyutsiya (1921-40). Coming on to current periodical accessions Istoricheskie zapiski has only a few gaps, mostly amongst the early issues, Voprosy istorii is complete from 1950, Voprosy istorii KPSS is complete from 1962 and Istoriya SSSR from 1960. Western journals on Soviet affairs are also taken.

Leeds University has a strong Chinese department and the library is building up an extensive collection of works on Sino-soviet relations. This currently consists of a few hundred scattered items, directly on Sino-Soviet relations or Russian works on Chinese politics, but including some related aspects, such as Russian studies of Chinese linguistics. This collection will, however, expand greatly in the future not only as a result of a wide current and second-hand purchasing programme but also because early Soviet publications on Chinese politics are being systematically traced and xerox copies ordered.

The library has a wide range of bibliographical works on Russia; periodical bibliographies currently received include Bibliografiya izdanii AN SSSR (almost complete), Ezhegodnik knigi SSSR (1957; complete from 1959), Knizhnaya letopis (from 1957), Letopis retsenzii (from 1962), Letopis zhurnalnykh statei (from 1962) and Letopis gazetnykh statei (from 1969). The most important of the non-periodical bibliographies are the following: "Bibliografiya periodicheskikh izdanii Rossii", 1901-1916, ed. Belyaeva and others (4 vols., 1958-61), Bibliothèque Impériale Publique de St. Petersburg: "Catalogue de la section des Russica" (2 vols., reprint), Foster's Bibliography of Russian emigre literature, 1918-68" (2 vols., 1970), "The Kilgour Collection of Russian literature" (Harvard College Library, 1959),

Mezhov's "Russkaya istoricheskaya bibliografiya za 1865-76" (8 vols., microcard), Smits: "Half a century of Soviet serials" (2 vols., Library of Congress, 1968), Vengerov's "Istochniki slovary russkikh pisatelei" (4 vols., reprint) and the "Svodnyi katalog russkoi knigi grazhdanskoi pechati XVIII veka" (5 vols., 1963-7).

The library has two large encyclopedias for the student of Russian, the "Bolshaya sovetskaya entsiklopediya", 82 vols. plus 4 supplements, 1904-5. The third edition of the Bolshaya sovetskaya (1970-) has begun to arrive.

Smaller encyclopedias include "Information USSR", ed. Robert Maxwell, 1962, and the McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Russia and the Soviet Union, ed. M.T. Florinsky, 1961. The only large separate gazeteer is P.P. Semenov's "Geograficheskoye-statisticheskoye slovo Rossiskoi Imperii" in 5 vols. which is still useful, although published in 1863-85. The library holds the "Atlas SSSR", 2nd edition, 1969, and some other maps. There is a biographical dictionary, "Russkii biograficheskii slovar" by Polovtsov and others, 1898-1918, reprinted in 25 vols., but this was never quite completed. Biographical information on Soviet personalities is available in "Prominent personalities in the USSR", of which the 1961-2 and 1965-6 editions are in stock.

The Dressler Collection, 3,800 items, the working library of the late Alfred Dressler, a lecturer who had a wide range of interests in Slavonic studies, but who was chiefly concerned with Soviet history, is deposited in the library. Two locations outside the Brotherton Library proper contain material of interest to slavists, but their contents are not available for loan to other libraries. The Brotherton Collection contains a first edition of Pushkin's "Tsygany" (Moscow, 1827), some early travel books, notably Fletcher's "Of the Russe commonwealth" (2nd ed., 1643 under the title "The history of Russia") and some political pamphlets, including many by Kropotkin. The Russian Departmental library (2,300 items) has an extremely varied stock as its basis, but new additions consist mainly of "background" books and works of interest to undergraduates.

The library has formed small basic collections of Bulgarian and Czech works and expects to expand these gradually; there are currently over 400 relevant volumes including those in the Departmental library and including some sets of multiple copies for class use. Bulgarian reference works are available, e.g. Bulgarski knigopis, 1948 to date, almost complete, Letopis na periodichniya pechat, complete, 1952 to date and the "Kratka Bulgarska entsiklopediya" (5 vols., 1963-9). There is a collection of Ukrainian material, about 15 feet of shelving of which more than half is taken up by émigré books and periodicals, notably Ukrainian quarterly complete from 1955 and numerous issues of Vyzvolnyi shlyakh, 1952-66, incomplete. There are three Slovak periodicals: Slovenská literatura and Slovenská reč, both complete from 1955 and Slovenské knihy from 1955 with some gaps. The Czech journal Historický casopis is complete from 1955 and there are a few items in other Slavonic languages.

The Society for Cultural Relations with the U.S.S.R. collection is a rather miscellaneous but very interesting group of material, mostly issued in the Soviet Union after 1925 and including many items assembled for exhibition. It was donated by the Society in 1934, although at least one periodical run was extended beyond that date when amalgamated with our own holdings. Much of the collection consists of pamphlets and incomplete runs of periodicals in Russian; all periodicals in Slavonic or western languages and many other items of interest have now been catalogued and added to the normal stock of the library. The following incomplete sets of Soviet newspapers are worthy of mention: Izvestiya TsIK 1932-4, Moscow (daily) news 1930-37, Za industrializatsiyu 1932-3, Za kommunisticheskoe prosveshchenie 1933-4; there are also parts of the Belorussian periodicals Maladnyak 1931-2, Polymya/Polymya revolyutsii 1931-2, Uzvyshsha 1931 and of the Russian trade delegations' London journal, Russian information and review/Soviet union review 1921-5.

Part of the S.C.R. collection is uncatalogued; about half of this consists of textbooks and miscellaneous scientific and technical material, mostly in Russian, but with a few items in Ukrainian and

Belorussian. The remainder consists of 38 quarto pamphlet boxes containing chiefly textbooks and pamphlets on politics and agriculture in almost all the non-slavonic languages of the USSR; items in the Georgian, Azerbaidzhani, Tatar, Uzbek and Yiddish languages each fill more than one box.

Current Soviet daily newspapers are not handled by the library; a selection is purchased directly by the Department of Russian Studies, displayed and stored there. The library does, however, subscribe to a microfilm of Izvestiya, starting from 1963. Russian accessions are reported to the Slavonic Union Catalogue at the National Central Library and periodical holdings to the British Union Catalogue of Periodicals. Persons unconnected with the University of Leeds who wish to use the facilities of its library should write to the Librarian beforehand.

Mr McCarthy is at present on a year's leave of absence in Brazil.

SLAVONIC MATERIALS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

THE Universiteitsbibliotheek van Amsterdam has recently issued, as part of its "Speciale Catalogi, Nieuwe Serie," the first volume of Slavica en Sovietica in de Boekerijen der Universiteit van Amsterdam, which provides, by means of photoreproduction, the author, editor or title cards of the Slavica collection of the University Library, the collections of the Oost-Europa Institut, and the collections of the Slavisch Seminarium. These collections include, among others, the publications on Slavic cultural history formerly belonging to Professor Bruno Becker, those on Slavic philology of Professor F.C. Driessen, and a group of early Soviet imprints from the library of the Nederland-Nieuw Rusland society. This first volume covers in 420 pages the entries filed under the letters "A" to "C" inclusive. The system of transliteration for names or words from languages not using the Latin alphabet is one frequently applied by institutions in the Netherlands, according to which, for example, the Cyrillic letter transcribed as "kh" by the Library of Congress is entered as "ch" and that which is "ch" in LC entries is "č" in the Amsterdam catalog. Bibliographic and other annotations are given in the Dutch language.

- From the Library of Congress Information Bulletin, Vol. 30, no. 24, 17th June 1971.

CORRIGENDUM

Mr J.S.G. Simmons writes:

IN my review of Kratkii spravochnik knigolyuba (Solanus, No. 6, p. 17) I implied that it was incorrect to state that the British Museum possesses a copy of the Skorina 1525 Apostol. Mr G.B. Morris of the Department of Printed Books of the British Museum has pointed out to me that the Museum does, in fact, have a copy of this work. It is secreted in the catalogue under 'BIBLE [New Testament]. Acts. Russian. White Russian dialect' and has the pressmark: C.51.b.6. My apologies to the compilers of the Kratkii spravochnik - and my renewed encouragements to the British Museum to produce a Short-title Catalogue of its early-printed Cyrillic books.

TWO RUSSIAN MSS IN THE NEW UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER LIBRARY

B.S. Benedikz & D.M. Pursglove
New University of Ulster, Coleraine

THE two manuscripts whose texts are reproduced opposite were purchased by the University Library from the East Grinstead bookseller H.T. Jantzen in February 1969. It has not been possible to trace their provenance any further, and it is certainly impossible to guess why the second letter ever left the Imperial Archives in St. Petersburg.

NOTES

1. The fact that Fedor Ivanovich - is addressed as 'vashe Prevoskhoditel'stvo' suggests that he was a member of the third or fourth rank of the Table of Ranks i.e. he was either a tainyi sovetnik or a deistvitel'nyi statskii sovetnik. On the other hand the form 'milostivyi gosudar' moi' was used to address people of equal rank¹ and in 1795 Bezborodko, who went on to become Chancellor of the Empire under Paul, was, as a deistvitel'nyi tainyi sovetnik, a member of the second rank. It is possible that Fedor Ivanovich did indeed belong to the third rank and that the introductory formula is a piece of polite flattery.² If this is so, Bezborodko, in adopting such a propitiating tone to an inferior, was clearly doing the obscure local customs official Gerken a considerable favour. However, it is worth noting that he decides to pull his rank at the end of the letter by signing with his title, his initial and his surname.

2. This is in two hands: the text in that of a legation copyist, the signature and valedictory formula in that of the Envoy, Akim Grigor'evich Lizakevich. Lizakevich was chargé d'affaires in Genoa from 1786-1801 and later (Oct. 1802 - Dec. 1809)³ was Envoy to the

Милостивый Государь мой Федоръ Ивановичъ.

Прилагая при сем записку мнѣ поданную отъ Секретаря здѣшней таможни Геркена касающуюся до наслѣдства приходящаго ему послѣ умершей тамъ его родственницы; я имѣю честь предпослать сего просителя особливому вашему поручительству, прося всеприлѣжно ваше Превосходительство способствовать ему вашими милостивыми въ пользу его стараніями. Впрочемъ самъ онъ вамъ представилъ свои доказательства. Пребуду навсегда съ отличнымъ почтеніемъ

Милостивый Государь мой,
вашего превосходительства
послушнымъ и всепокорнѣйшимъ
слугой

Съ.П.бург.
мая 19 1795

Графъ А Безбородко

въ Кальяри сего 27 февраля 1807 года
11 марта

Всепресвѣтнѣйшій, Державнѣйшій, Великій Императоръ
и Самодержавецъ Всероссійскій
Государь Всемилоостивѣйшій

По полученіи высочайшаго Рескрипта отъ 19^{го} ноября минувшаго 1806^{го} года съ приложенною формальною Грамотою къ Его Величеству Королю Сардинскому, о благополучномъ разрѣшеніи Ея Императорскаго Величества Государыни Императрицы Елизаветы Алексѣевны, рожденіемъ Великой Княжны Елизаветы Александровны, я непреминулъ неукоснительно учинить извѣщеніе чрезъ Регента Иностраннаго Департамента, врученіемъ перевода съ Грамоты, а на другой День на нарочной Аудіенціи подалъ Королю Сардинскому и формальную Грамоту съ Таковымъ Привѣтствіемъ, что Ваше Императорское Величество удостоивѣрены будучи, что онъ принимаетъ искреннее участіе во всѣхъ приключеніяхъ, служащихъ къ умноженію славы и

Court of Piedmont-Sardinia, which was at that time resident in Cagliari, after Charles Emmanuel's abdication of his Piedmontese sovereignty in 1798. In this letter he describes the King of Sardinia's reception of the news of the birth of Princess Elisaveta Aleksandrovna. Lizakevich conveys both the King's congratulations, his request for Russian support in his present 'unhappy plight' (i.e. minus half his kingdom) and his prayers for the victory of the Russian troops over the 'enemy of mankind' (Napoleon). This proved to be a vain hope in the short run as the shattering defeat at Friedland (14th June 1807 N.S.) and the subsequent Treaty of Tilsit (9th July 1807 N.S.) showed. Nor was the Princess so grandiosely announced destined to play any part in world politics, as she died when not much over a year old (12th May 1808 N.S.).⁴

1. V.I. Dal', Tolkovyi slovar', Moscow, 1955, II, p. 387.
2. E. Amburger, Geschichte der Behörden-Organisation Russlands, Leiden, 1966, gives a list of personal names of Russian officials from Peter the Great to 1917. Of these, the only Fedor Ivanovich who might be a possible candidate is:
 Friedrich Wilhelm (Fedor Ivanovich) Creydemann (1734-96).
 in 1795 he was Vice-President of the College of Justice
 for the Baltic area.
3. We are indebted to Mr J.S.G. Simmons of All Souls College, Oxford for help with the details of Lizakevich's career.
4. Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1967, I, p. 569.

благополучія Вашего Императорскаго Величества и Императорскаго Дома, я имѣю счастье поднести Ему извѣстительную Грамоту о семъ толь пріятномъ произшествіи. Его Величество принявъ оную, поручилъ мнѣ донести вашему Императорскому Величеству, что преданность Его и всей Его фамиліи къ вашему императорскому Величеству и императорскому Дому пребудетъ навсегда неколеблема и ненарушима, и что онъ принося вашему императорскому Величеству усердное поздравленіе съ толь радостнымъ произшествіемъ, просить о всегдашнемъ продолженіи къ нему дружбы, полагая всю свою надежду, что ваше Императорское Величество сильною своею Защитою прекратите несчастное Его нынешнее положеніе; онъ же безпрестанно приноситъ молитвы всемогущему о сохраненіи Здравія всего Вашего Императорскаго Дома, и о дарованіи побѣдъ Россійскому оружію надъ врагомъ Человѣчества.

Пріемлю смѣлость и я припадая къ стопамъ Престола, принести вашему Императорскому Величеству всеподданнѣйшее поздравленіе съ толь радостнымъ произшествіемъ для всѣхъ вѣрныхъ подданныхъ и сыновъ Россіи, и съ глубочайшимъ благоговеніемъ пребываю

Вашего Императорскаго Величества
всенижайшій и всеподданнѣйшій
Акимъ Лизакевичъ

RECENT ACQUISITIONBritish Library of Political and Economic Science

STRUVE, P.B. Collected works in fifteen volumes; Richard Pipes, editor. University Microfilms, 1970. [Xerographic reprint.]

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